

AMENDMENT TO DRAWINGS

The attached 17 sheets of drawings include Figures 1-19. Kindly replace drawing sheets 1 through 12 (which include Figures 1-11) with attached replacement drawing sheets 1 through 17 (which include Figures 1-19). Applicants note that Figures 12-19 included as per the attached replacement sheets do not add new matter.

REMARKS

Applicants are amending claim 12 herein to remove the phrase “the steps of” from the preamble. No other claim amendments have been made. The claims as otherwise presented were found to be allowable as noted in a prior Notice of Allowance and Examiner’s Amendment dated December 19, 2006.

In addition, Applicants are amending the specification to simplify the heading “Cross Reference to Related Application and Claim of Priority” to now read “Cross Reference to Related Application.” In addition, Applicants are amending the paragraphs in that section to specify that U.S. Serial No. 09/710,156 is now U.S. Patent No. 6,928,300. Further, per 1268 OG 89, Applicants are clarifying the priority claim after the title to state that the present application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/710,156, now U.S. Patent No. 6,928,300. Applicants note that the original specification on the first substantive page had included an attempt for a priority claim. To correct this priority claim, Applicants submitted on January 31, 2007, an appropriate Petition and fee to the Office. This Petition is under review by the Office and its grant is requested.

In addition, in response to the Notice of Drawing Inconsistency with Specification dated January 8, 2007, Applicants are replacing drawing sheets 1 through 12, which include Figures 1-11 with drawing sheets 1 through 17, which include original Figures 1-11 and add in omitted Figures 12-19. Applicant submits that Figures 12-19 do not add new matter. Reference to these Figures was made in the original specification as filed in the “Brief Description Of The Drawings” on page 8, line 5 through page 10, line 8. Further, the Figures are described in the “Description Of The Preferred Embodiments” on page 29, line 3 through page 31, line 2.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all amendments herein to the specification is a correction of formal matters and no new matter is added. Applicants also state that this Amendment and Response is being submitted together with a request for continued examination. As such, Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment and Response be entered under 37 CFR § 1.114.

Respectfully submitted,
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